



Mission: Delta II-XTE

Launch date, time: 8:48 a.m., Dec. 30, 1995, from Launch Complex 17, Pad A, Cape Canaveral Air Station.

Mission synopsis: The XTE spacecraft is outfitted with three scientific instruments that will study X-rays, including their origin and emission mechanisms, and the physical conditions and evolution of X-ray sources within the Milky Way galaxy and beyond. The Delta II 7920 expendable launch vehicle is provided by McDonnell Douglas.



Mission: STS-75 on Columbia.

Launch date, time: Feb. 22, 3:08 p.m. from Launch Pad 39B.

Synopsis: The seven-member international STS-75 crew will conduct scientific investigations with both the Tethered Satellite System-1R (TSS-1R) and United States Microgravity Payload-3 (USMP-3) primary payloads during the 75th Space Shuttle mission.

Landing date, time: March 7, 7:38 a.m. at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility.

Spaceport News

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John F. Kennedy Space Center

STS-72 provides bright start to new year



THE SPACE SHUTTLE Endeavour lights up the night as it thunders aloft from Launch Pad 39B at 4:41 a.m. Jan. 11, kicking off the 1996 Shuttle launch schedule. During their nine-day mission crew members will retrieve the Japanese Space Flyer Unit and deploy and later retrieve the Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology Flyer (OAST-Flyer). At press time landing was scheduled for Jan. 20 at 3:17 a.m. at KSC.

Managers commend team for professionalism despite record federal furlough

KSC officials expressed pride in the commitment shown by the work force that resulted in the flawless launch of STS-72 Jan. 11.

"The professionalism of the KSC team is highlighted by a continuing commitment to excellence," said Center Director Jay Honeycutt. Despite unresolved budget issues, "our team does not compromise when it comes to getting the job done."

The 4:41 a.m. launch was delayed 23 minutes due to communications problems; however, the liftoff from Pad 39B was without any serious technical glitches.

Launch Director Jim Harrington said he had full confidence in the KSC team as the count toward liftoff progressed.

"With the test team being the professionals that they are, there wasn't any doubt in my mind that we were ready to go into the count," he said.

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Challenger anniversary events look toward the future

The NASA Kennedy Space Center and community organizations associated with the space program will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Challenger accident on Sunday, Jan. 28 and Monday, Jan. 29. Planned events will emphasize the future and acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the contractor and civil service team which has safely launched 49 shuttle missions since that time.

"It is the day-to-day work and care by the men and women of NASA and its contractors who

best honor the memory of the Challenger astronauts and other astronauts who have lost their lives in advancing humankind's quest to use space," KSC Center Director Jay Honeycutt said. "I don't think there has ever been a more committed and hard-working group of people anywhere. The nation can be proud of them."

An observance for Kennedy Space Center employees will be held on Monday, Jan. 29, the day following the actual anniversary date. At 11:30 a.m.

NASA and contractor employees will be excused from their work stations to step outside for a moment of silence. At 11:38 a.m., (the time of the Challenger launch), a "missing man" formation of T-38 jets flown by members of the astronaut corps will fly over the space center followed by the dropping of a wreath at sea by helicopter. At Johnson Space Center a similar observance will be held at the same time.

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